

Senator Charges Baker Was Tricked By General Staff

Policy in Demobilizing Of- ficers Declared to Have Imposed Serious Injus- tice on Gallant Veterans

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Attacking the policy of the General Staff in demobilizing officers as having resulted in "discrimination and favoritism" affecting hundreds of officers, Senator Harrison, Democrat, of Mississippi, told the Senate to-day he hoped the facts he would present would influence Secretary Baker to "direct a change in the policy of demotions to remedy the discriminations already inflicted upon hundreds of army officers."

Senator Harrison was speaking on his resolution directing the Secretary to furnish a statement of the policy governing demotions. He directed his criticism particularly at reductions of officers to their pre-war rank.

Older Officers Demoted
Many older officers of the service, Senator Harrison said, recently have been reduced, while young officers, their juniors in service, retain high rank and high pay under the General Staff policy. The prevalent belief among the officers of the army, he declared, was that "favoritism and incompetency" were displayed.

Neither brilliant service nor seniority was taken into consideration in reducing officers, Senator Harrison charged.

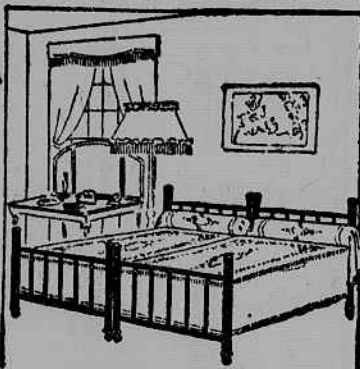
"The Washington clique retained their advanced rank," said he, "and I am told that colonels at Hoboken would greet returning veteran brigadier generals and order them to adjourn to a reduced rank. Generals, colonels and lieutenant colonels, before starting home from abroad, were ordered to carry in their baggage the insignias of captains, majors and lieutenant colonels."

General Staff Criticized
Senator Harrison said "it would seem to some people that in many instances the thought uppermost in the minds of the General Staff in retaining certain men at advanced rank was to 'put up a job on Congress and the Sec-

retary of War,' and they did not fall far short of accomplishment." He cited the cases of former Brigadier Generals C. W. Kutz, John N. Hodges, Henry C. Jewett, Leroy S. Upton, Briant H. Wells, W. C. Langditt and Mason M. Patrick and Major General W. H. Johnston and Preston Brown as instances of the injustices he charged. "No blacker page has been written, no greater degree of injustice perpetrated, no more inequitable wrong inflicted upon any part of the fighting forces than the General Staff has meted out in its policy of demobilization," he said.

U. S. Ships Advised to Avoid Dutch Ports During Strike

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—American vessels were advised to avoid temporarily the ports of Amsterdam and Rotterdam by Consul Listoe, of Rotterdam, in a cable to-day to the Department of Commerce. A strike of dock and transport workers has been called for February 18.



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